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Message Text

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13
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 024152
P R 210800Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2757
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T SANAA 1867

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: YE, US, TC, SA
SUBJ: EMERGENCY ARMS FOR YAR

REF: (A) SANAA 1595, (B) SANAA 1669, (C) STATE 169859,
(D) SANAA 1833, (E) ABU DHABI 1298, (F) JIDDA 3709

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF FOR ISA AND DSAA; USCINCEUR AND DEPT OF ARMY

1. SUMMARY: YARG CONCURS IN US PROPOSAL FOR SPLIT
AIR/SEA SHIPMENT BUT STRONGLY APPEALS FOR SOME 106MM
RECOILLESS RIFLES AND 81MM MORTARS NOW RPT NOW.
YARG WILL PICK UP THE DIPLOMATIC BALL WITH ABU DHABI ON
FINANCIING. ACTIONS REQUESTED: (A) RE-EXAMINATION OF
106MM AVAILABILITY LOOKING TOWARD INCLUSION AT LEAST 15
UNITS WITH 1,000-1,500 ROUNDS AMMO IN SPECIAL
ASSIGNMENT AIRLIFT MISSION CARRYING OTHER ITEMS TO BE
AIRLIFTED TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR ONWARD AIR TRANSPORT TO
YAR; (B) DEPT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY JIDDA APPROACH SAG RE
RELEASE TO YAR OF 10 81MM MORTARS AND APPROPRIATE AMMO;
(C) FOLLOWING DECISIONS ON (A) AND (B), POUCH LETTER OF
OFFER WITH INSTRUCTIONS SOONEST; (D) INFORM ABU DHABI
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OF FINAL GLOBAL COST.

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2. ACTING FONMIN ASNAG INFORMED ME SEPTEMBER 20 THAT MILITARY LEADERSHIP HAD CONCURRED IN US PROPOSAL (REFTEL C) FOR SPLIT AIR/SEA TRANSPORT OF ARMS TO BE SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO YEMEN. ASNAG SAID MILITARY MOST CONCERNED, HOWEVER, RE PROSPECTIVE DELAY IN DELIVERY OF 106MM RECOILLESS RIFLES AND 81MM MORTARS, WHICH AMONG MOST CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS (AS DATT HAS ALSO NOTED). IN VIEW SMALL QUANTITIES INVOLVED (30 AND 10 RESPECTIVELY, MILITARY FOUND IT DIFFICULT UNDERSTAND HOW USG CANNOT LOCATE AT LEAST SOME UNITS TO BE INCLUDED IN INITIAL AIRLIFT. THEY STRONGLY APPEAL FOR RECONSIDERATION.

3. ASNAG SAID YARG AMBASSADOR TO UAE, QUBATI, BRIEFED ON FOREGOING AND WILL RETURN TO ABU DHABI EARLY NEXT WEEK TO PICK UP THE BALL ON DISCUSSIONS WITH ADG, COORDINATING WITH US EMBASSY. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF POINT MADE PARA 4 REF (E).

4. COMMENT: YARG DECISION SHOULD ENABLE US WRAP THIS UP FAIRLY QUICKLY. AS IMMEDIATE STEP, URGE THAT STATE AND DOD RE-EXAMINE 106 AVAILABILITY. OUR HOPE WOULD BE THAT AT LEAST 15 UNITS AND 1,000-1,500 ROUNDS AMMO COULD BE LOCATED FOR INCLUSION IN INITIAL AIRLIFT EVEN IF THIS REQUIRES DIVERSION FROM US SERVICES. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT DELIVERY TIME ON REMAINING 15 106S WHICH HAVE BEEN REQUESTED COULD BE SHORTENED BY WITHDRAWAL FROM US STOCKS AND THAT THESE, WITH BALANCE OF AMMO, BE SHIPPED BY SEA WITH REST OF YARG ORDER.

5. RE 10 81MM MORTARS, RECOMMEND DEPT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY JIDDA APPROACH SAG PURSUANT PARA 5 REF (C) AND REF (F).

6. WHEN THE ANSWERS ARE IN ON PARAS 4 AND 5, REQUEST WE BE POUCHED SOONEST LETTER OF OFFER AND NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS. WHEN THESE RECEIVED, WE HOPE COL. FIFER WILL BE ABLE VISIT SANAA TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGO-TIATION.

7. YAR'S ACCEPTANCE OF US SUGGESTION ON SOME SEA

SHIPMENT WILL REDUCE GLOBAL COST FIGURE GIVEN ADG. AIRLIFT OF SOME 106S AND AMMO, AS RECOMMENDED ABOVE AND IF FEASIBLE, WILL PUSH COST BACK UP. WHEN FINAL FIGURE KNOWN IT WILL, OF COURSE, NEED TO BE GIVEN TO BOTH ADG AND YARG.

8. CONCUR WASHINGTON VIEW RE PREFERABILITY OF SAAM OVER CHANNEL AIR. THIS IS IN PART A POLITICAL EXERCISE

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IN PSYCHOLOGICAL REASSURANCE. INTERMITTANT ARRIVALS VIA
CHANNEL AIR WOULD REDUCE IMPACT.

9. FOR JIDDA: OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 15 106S AND
1,000-1,500 ROUNDS AMMO FOR AIRLIFT NOW IS CIVI-
LIAN EVALUATION BLENDING WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE YARG
NEEDS AND WHAT WE JUDGE USG SHOULD DO TO APPEAR RESPONSIVE TO
THOSE NEEDS. DATT MAY WISH COMMENT.
CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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